

# WHEN A STRANGER COMES KNOCKING...



Every year, the Town of Firestone gets questions about solicitors: Are they allowed in the Town?; What does the Town require from them in order to solicit?; What are my rights as a resident if they knock on my door?; What happens if they get aggressive? The Town certainly understands your concerns as a resident and wants to take this opportunity to address your questions regarding solicitors or door-to-door sales.

Are solicitors allowed in the Town of Firestone? The short answer is yes. Solicitation is a viable business and allowed in the Town of Firestone, although subject to regulations set forth in the Firestone Municipal Code. The Town requires that all businesses, including solicitors, acquire a Business License with the Town before engaging in any type of business in the Town. In conjunction with the Business License, a Sales Tax License might also be required if the business is engaged in selling tangible items or furnishing services. Once a

business satisfies its licensing requirements with the Town, it is subsequently permitted to conduct business in the Town of Firestone.

What are my rights as a resident if a solicitor knocks on my door? When solicitors inquire about doing business in the Town of Firestone, it is explained to them that they are not to solicit on property that has a sign clearly stating "No Soliciting" or "No Trespassing," and they are not to solicit in the Town's rights-of-way. If a solicitor does knock on your door, you have the right to either tell him or her you are not interested, at which time he or she is to immediately vacate the property, or ask to see his or her Business License. If a solicitor fails to provide you with a Business License, you can call Town Hall at (303) 833-3291 and inquire about the solicitor's business. If the solicitor does not have a Business License with the Town, the Police are then notified and the solicitor is subject to penalties if he or she fails to comply with the Town's requirements. If at any time a solicitor gets aggressive or does not leave when you ask him or her to leave, call the Police immediately. The non-emergency phone number to the Firestone Police Department is (303) 833-0811; otherwise call 911 if it is a true emergency.

Can the Town ban solicitors if they are selling a scam? The Town cannot ban solicitation per se, but rather, it can enforce rules and regulations in order to govern what types of businesses enter the Town. The best rule of thumb is, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. In order to protect yourself from potential scams or fraud, you have the right to post a conspicuous "No Soliciting" or "No Trespassing" sign. Any solicitor who fails to respect your privacy is in violation of the Town Code and subject to penalties. In addition, if the Town finds that a solicitor is engaging in fraud or misrepresentation, it reserves the right to revoke a Business License per section 5.40.050 of the Firestone Municipal Code. Do not hesitate to call the Police if you feel that your well being and safety are being compromised by a solicitor that fails to respect the Town's rules.



For more information, please refer to the Town's website at [www.FirestoneCO.gov](http://www.FirestoneCO.gov), click on Municipal Code and refer to Chapter 5.40 titled, "Transient Merchants, Solicitors and Peddlers." In a related matter, the Town's solicitor rules do not apply to a business or organization that is posting flyers on your door or bona fide religious, charitable, school, and civic organizations.